

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Applicant has substituted the serial numbers of the Related Patent Applications with the Attorney Docket numbers.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-13 and 16 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Alden, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0072469.

The Examiner stated the following in pages 2-3 of the office action: *"As per claim 1, Alden discloses an incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises (abstract); one or more data bases that stores unique information affixed to mail and identities of mailers (database storing information) (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); a plurality of receptacles that reads and stores the unique information affixed to mail after the mail enters the interior of the receptacle (storing information) (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); a data center that stores the unique information affixed to mail and receives the unique information from the receptacles to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail in the receptacle (storing information) (abstract, paragraph 17, fig's. [sic] 3-9); and means coupled to the data center and the recipient of the mail for communicating to the recipient, information stored in the data center above the mail (transfer of data) (abstract).*

Alden discloses the following in his abstract:

"In a preferred embodiment, a network-based hardcopy mail scanning system to enable a mail recipient to view virtual images of their mail prior to physically receiving said mail. Unwanted mail from unknown origins can be discarded remotely by the mail recipient prior to actually receiving or touching the hardcopy mail. Thus the mail recipient is insulated from contact with potential letter bombs, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists through the US or international postal systems. The process includes a means to digitize an image of hardcopy mail intended for a mail recipient, a database to store the digitized image, a scanning service computer connected to said database. Said scanning service computer and a mail recipient computer are interconnected by a computer network. The scanning service

computer communicates images of hardcopy mail (addressed for delivery to the mail recipient) to the mail recipient computer via the computer network. The mail recipient can elect to accept mail for receipt or to reject mail which is then destroyed. By virtually selecting what mail to accept and discarding the rest, the recipient can discard mail from unknown origins prior to ever physically handling it."

Paragraph 17 of Alden reads as follows:

"[0017] **FIG. 3** is a flowchart describing hardcopy mail interception at the home mailbox of the present invention. The present invention provides a mail scan service **49**. In this illustration, the mail scan service is intercepting the intended recipient's **55** mail at his home mail box **47**. The **49** scans (records a digital image) of the mail which it provides electronically over the internet, thereby enabling the intended recipient to virtually view the mail prior to receiving it. Internet communication channel between **49** and **55** is indicated by a dotted line. The **55** elects to accept or to reject each specific mail article. Rejected mail **51** is discarded by the **49** and accepted mail **53** is routed to the user by the **49**. Thus the user of the scanning service receives and personally handles only the mail that he wishes to and discards the unwanted mail without ever having handled it. This reduces potential for exposure to explosives, biological agents, and chemical agents distributed by terrorists.

Alden does not disclose a postal indicia. In fact, in Fig. 9, Alden shows what appears to be a cancelled 34 cents U.S. postage stamp in the upper right hand side of the image of envelope 175. Thus, Alden does not disclose or anticipate one or more data bases that stores unique information contained in a postal indicia affixed to mail and identities of mailers.

Furthermore, Alden does not disclose or anticipate added claims 17 and 18 wherein the unique information is a security code, and wherein the security code comprises an address of the recipient of the mail and information contained in a postage meter that made the postal indicia.

Claims 2 and 14-15 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden, U.S. patent application publication

2003/0072469 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bobrow, et al., U.S. patent application publication 2002/0079371.

The Examiner stated in page 5 of the office action: "*Bobrow et al. discloses wherein the means comprises: a telephone; and a voice response unit that is coupled to the telephone and the data center (paragraph 12, fig. 1). It would have been obvious to modify Alden to include a telephone, and a voice response unit that is coupled to the telephone and the data center such as that taught by Bobrow et al. in order to communicate [sic] with the data center through voice activated means concerning the incoming mail pieces. As per claim 14, Bobrow et al. further discloses wherein the receptacles includes the time and date that the mail was deposited in the receptacle (paragraph 133, fig's [sic] 2 & 4).*

*Paragraph 12 of Bobrow reads as follows:*

"[0012] Despite promises of cross-platform integration (e.g., computer and telephone, computer telephony), there is usually little relationship between the data on a personal computer and most of the documents and other tools used for communication and information exchange that are found around a typical individual, office, or family. For example, in a typical home or office, one might find a telephone, an answering machine (or voicemail system), audio equipment (such as a stereo), a fax machine, a television, a computer and printer, a whiteboard or a chalkboard, and various written notes, lists, calendars, mailings, books, and other documents. Unfortunately, the information in one or more of those repositories is usually tied to that repository. For example, addresses in a written address book are not easily used on a computer e-mail system, unless the user goes to the trouble of manually transferring the relevant information from the address book to the computer."

*Paragraph 133 of Bobrow reads as follows:*

"[0133] Swipes 1114, 1116, and 1118 specify the date and time of the event. Swipes 1110, 1112, 1122, and 1124 serve to annotate the event. The address is set forth in swipes 1120, 1122, and 1124 – this information can remain part of the annotation or can be extracted by the system as described below. Note that this further information can be displayed in a hierarchical fashion, concealing details until needed. Moreover, in one embodiment of the invention, the entire announcement of FIG. 11 (or at least an additional portion thereof) is scanned and stored as an image in the

database **310 (FIG. 3)** in addition to the information extracted and used as an event annotation as set forth above. This approach has the advantage that additional information in the document (such as the bride's name, for example) is accessible and can be made available, if necessary, even if it is not expected to be needed at the time the key data items are extracted."

Neither Alden nor Bobrow disclose or anticipate a postal indicia. Figs. 2 and 4 of Bobrow do not show a postal indicia.

Claims 1 and 3-16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of copending Application No. 10/015309 and claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/015464. A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of copending Application No. 09/683380 and over claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 09/683381. A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

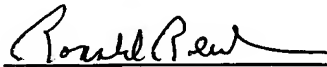
Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of U.S. patent No. 16,754,366. A Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

In view of the above, claims 1-16 and new claims 17 and 18 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would he please call the undersigned at the telephone

Appl. No. 10/015,69  
Amdt. Dated: April 22, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated February 28, 2005

number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Ronald Reichman  
Reg. No. 26,796  
Attorney of Record  
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology Law Department  
35 Waterview Drive  
P.O. Box 3000  
Shelton, CT 06484-8000